

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRETINFORMATION
November 28, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Phil Odeen *qmw*

SUBJECT: Infiltration Levels into SVN

The attached CIA study pulls together the infiltration data for the last infiltration year (September-August). It includes some significant comparisons which may give some insight on why NVN wants to settle.

-- Total NVN manpower sent to South Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam was greater than during the Tet offensive.

<u>Year, Sep-Aug</u>	<u>Total Leaving NVN</u>
1967-68	230,000
1968-69	106,000
1969-70	85,000
1970-71	130,000
1971-72	248,000

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

-- The inflow was concentrated in northern SVN this year; only 38,000 were sent to COSVN compared with 45,000 to COSVN last year.

-- Infiltration continued heavy right through the wet season (July - August) at 57,000 compared with negligible numbers in the three previous years and 30,000 in 1967-68.

-- There is no let up in the flow as infiltration in September-October 1972 of 16,000 is twice the level of a year ago. CIA believes the high infiltration level of 1971-72 will continue in 1973 unless there is a cease-fire. The study does not deal with NVN's problems in retaining quality while maintaining the current rate of inflow.

-- The VC/NVA force structure in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam was more than 350,000 in August 1972, the largest outside NVN thus far during the war.

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Intelligence Memorandum

NVA Infiltration and Unit Deployments Since September 1971

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